

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

SB 78 - HB 605

March 23, 2009

SUMMARY OF BILL: Prohibits the adoption of a child by an individual who resides with another person and is involved in a sexual relationship with that person outside of marriage.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$2,831,400

Increase Federal Expenditures - \$2,164,700

Assumptions:

- According to the Department of Children's Services, there are approximately 1,225 adoptions annually. Eleven of those adoptions were to unmarried couples while 369 were to singles.
- According to the Department, there is no data on the number of singles who are living in a cohabitating sexual relationship because they do not collect that information during the adoption process. The Department estimates that at least two-thirds, or 246 adoptions, are to singles who would fall into this category.
- The fiscal note is based on a total of 257 (246 + 11) children who would be in custody longer before being adopted due to the proposed legislation.
- On average, the delay in permanency will require an additional 180 days of state custody. For each additional day there will be an approximate increase of \$108 in expenditures per child. This is estimated to increase expenditures by \$4,996,080 (257 children x 180 days x \$108 per day).
- Of the \$4,996,080, seven percent (\$349,726) will be Title IV-E Federal funds; 49 percent (\$2,448,079) will be through TennCare; and \$2,198,275 in state funds.
- Of the \$2,448,079 in TennCare funds, \$633,122 are state funds at a 25.862 percent match rate and \$1,814,957 are federal funds at a 74.138 percent match rate.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "W".

James W. White, Executive Director

/kml